

U.N. envoy continues Gulf shuttle

NICOSIA (R) — U.N. envoy Jean-Pierre, arriving in Tel Aviv from Baghdad Tuesday, reported that the Gulf peace mission between Iraq and Iran had made "progressive" gains. Some of an Iraqi troop withdrawal, Iran's television said. However, he was questioned about a report attributed to sources close to him that he made "headway in talks in Iraq on implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and the question of an Iraqi withdrawal." "It is purely a rumor and not at all true," the television spokesman in Nicosia quoted him as replying. It did not say who had issued the report or give other details about it. Iran says Iraqi troops still hold some of its territory and must leave before other articles of the U.N. resolution, including an exchange of prisoners of war, can be implemented. Baghdad's priority must be given to clearing the disputed Shati Al Arab waterway, its main outlet to the Gulf, of war debris and oil. Iranian television said Eliezer met Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati after arriving in Tel Aviv from Baghdad for the fourth time in the past two weeks.

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Algeria urges Sahara talks

TIARET, Algeria (R) — Algeria Tuesday urged direct talks between Morocco and independence-seeking Polisario guerrillas, saying recent fighting in the Western Sahara made them all the more imperative. Foreign Minister Sihammed Ghoulal told reporters the recent spasm in Polisario attacks on Moroccan troops highlighted the need to implement a U.N. peace plan for the 14-year-old conflict. "What is happening now can only comfort us in our belief in the need to pursue this (U.N. peace) process which must be accompanied by a direct dialogue between the Moroccans and Saharawis." Ghoulal was accompanying the Italian and Algerian presidents on a visit to this region 210 kilometers southwest of Algiers. Algeria is the strongest political backer of the guerrillas, who have broken a one-year halt in fighting with three major attacks in the past month. Algeria halted direct military aid after joining Morocco in a regional unity pact last year. Mohammad Abd al-Aziz, president of the Polisario's diplomatic arm, "the Arab Sahrawi democratic republic," told Algiers radio Tuesday the attacks would continue until Rabat showed willingness to move towards a peaceful solution.

Soldier killed, another wounded in Gaza ambush

Palestinians, Israeli army brace for state anniversary

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies)

— Israeli troops blew up a building, demolished a stone wall and set up an outpost flying the Israeli flag Tuesday in a show of force at the site where an Israeli soldier was killed and another wounded in an ambush.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, touring the outskirts of Gaza City where an army jeep was ambushed Monday, said Palestinians directing the uprising in the occupied territories were turning to guns to mark Wednesday's first anniversary of a Palestinian declaration of independence.

He vowed that Israel would catch and punish the Palestinians who shot dead one soldier and critically wounded a second. Arab residents who aided the ambush would also suffer, he aid.

Muslim fundamentalists claimed responsibility for the ambush.

Manweh Bakry, a 45-year-old Palestinian woman, died of chest wounds sustained in a Sept. 14 clash in Nablin, becoming the 61st Palestinian to die in the nearly two-year-old uprising.

In the occupied territories, troops shot and wounded seven

protesters in fresh clashes Monday night and Tuesday, Arab reports said.

The violent upsurge came as Israel sent reinforcements into the occupied territories.

The army closed schools in the occupied Gaza Strip, carried out a series of arrest raids in the West Bank and called up reinforcements to curb protests.

Palestinian activists launched independence celebrations Tuesday, blaring nationalist music through loudspeakers in the West Bank. Colour portraits of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and his late deputy Khalil Al Wazir hung on walls outside homes and shops.

In Gaza Strip refugee camps, children handed out flowers and balloons in the colours of the red, black, green and white Palestinian flag.

Motorists honked their horns rhythmically on Omar Al Mukhtar Street, the main commercial thoroughfare in Gaza City, as pedestrians broke into song and chanted: "We die so Palestine will live."

The army responded to Monday's ambush by sealing the Gaza

start of the uprising.

Israel Radio said an anonymous caller to the Arabic-language department claimed responsibility for the attack in the name of Hamas, (Zeal), a fundamentalist group.

Hamas has also been blamed for the kidnappings and slayings of two other Israeli soldiers, who went missing while hitchhiking from bases earlier this year.

On the eve of the Palestinian anniversary, in Bir Zeit, a West Bank town of 3,000 flags and pictures flew from lamp posts, telephone polls and even the top of a cross on the "Our Lady of Guadalupe" Roman Catholic church.

Activists in Bir Zeit said they plan to mark the first anniversary of the Nov. 15 declaration in Algiers by reading the proclamation over a mosque loudspeaker and with a military-style march through the streets.

Yousef, 26, an activist, who refused to give his last name, said women's committees plan to dance the "dabka," a traditional folk dance in the streets to mark the anniversary.

Hoss in cabinet-making as Aoun rattles sabres

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's new Prime Minister Salim Hoss plunged into consultations with former premiers of divided Lebanon Tuesday in an effort to seek support to bring warring factions into a government of national unity.

Hoss, appointed prime minister Monday, met fellow Sunni Muslims Rashid Solh and Amin Al Hafez, both heads of government in the 1970s. Solh headed a cabinet at the beginning of the civil war which has split the country since 1975.

Rocket-propelled grenades exploded overnight on the green line dividing mainly Muslim west Beirut from the Christian east, security sources said. No casualties were reported.

As Hoss started the consultations, defiant army general Michel Aoun warned Christian leaders against cooperation with the Muslim politicians.

"Those who take part in the Hoss' cabinet better stay in Hoss land," the independent newspaper Al Nahar quoted Aoun as saying.

Aoun, 54, a Maronite, controls most of the 800-square-

kilometre Christian enclave northeast of Beirut.

Also Tuesday four Maronite parliament deputies held a meeting in the northern Batroun province, outside the area of control of Aoun's 20,000 troops, to decide whether to take part in the new government.

The four included Falangist leader George Saadeh, the main Christian negotiator in 23 days of parliamentary deliberations at Taif, Saudi Arabia, last month which produced a peace pact to end the civil war.

Fearing Aoun's wrath, most

Christian legislators who took part in the Taif talks have not returned to the Christian enclave.

Parliament deputies, avoiding a threat by Aoun to shell them,

met at an airbase in north Lebanon Nov. 4, ratified the Taif accord and elected Rene Muawad president.

Muawad, 64, also a Maronite, named Hoss Monday to form a national reconciliation government representing all the warring factions in Lebanon with the objective of ending the civil strife.

Hoss met Solh and Hafez in

Announcement The Embassy of the State of Palestine

The Embassy of the State of Palestine apologises for not holding a reception which was scheduled to be held at the Jerusalem Hotel on Wednesday Nov. 15, 1989 on the anniversary of proclamation of the

independent State of Palestine

owing to the current situation in our occupied homeland.
The Embassy of the State of Palestine seizes this opportunity to congratulate our people in the occupied territories and abroad on the first anniversary of the proclamation of independence of the State of Palestine.

Please regard this announcement as a personal apology to all those who received invitation cards.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST... His Majesty King Hussein attends an official ceremony decades back. To the King's right is His

Royal Highness Prince Hassan, Bahjat Talhousi and Habes Al Majali (Archives photo)

Jordan celebrates Al Hussein's 54th birthday

King pledges continued dedication

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday he was proud of being a member of the same Jordanian family and pledged to dedicate his life in continued service of the country and its people.

In a telephone interview with Radio Jordan on the occasion of his 54th birthday, which was just widely celebrated in all parts of the Kingdom with festivities, the King thanked the Jordanian family and wished it every success. He said Jordan had celebrated another anniversary — a few days ago — with the general elections to parliament.

The King described the election as "a feast since the people participated in laying the founda-

tion stone for democratic life at demonstrating Jordan's positive image and turning it into a model that we all seek to achieve."

The King voiced hope that Jordan's image would continue to be bright, "based on fraternity, love, tolerance, awareness and resolve to press ahead with efforts to protect the future generations and to safeguard the country's achievements."

Among the festivities organized in the country to mark the King's birthday were a children's parade, which started from the SOS Children's Village in Tareq and ended at Amman's Marriott Hotel.

Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat deputised for the King in receiving the children. The parade also marked the first

anniversary of the founding of the SOS Children's Village.

In Aqaba, a skiing festival was held with the participation of several international stars. It was organised by the Jordan Skiing Federation.

Several exhibitions were opened in various parts of Jordan to mark the occasion of the King's birthday.

The King also received messages of congratulations from Arab and other world leaders wishing the Monarch continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Several Arab leaders, including Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh, telephoned the King to congratulate him. Among the Arab leaders who

were sending congratulations were U.S. President George Bush, the Supreme Soviet, the Sultan of Brunei, the president of India and the president of the Philippines as well as the crown prince of Qatar, the vice-president of the United Arab Emirates, and the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army stationed in Jordan.

Also sending congratulations were U.S. President George Bush, the Supreme Soviet, the Sultan of Brunei, the president of India and the president of the Philippines as well as the crown prince of Qatar, the vice-president of the United Arab Emirates, and the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army stationed in Jordan.

If the prime minister wanted to go to the United States strengthened from the achievement of his party ahead of his difficult meeting with Bush, he failed," Hazrat said.

"Not only did Likud fail in almost every goal it set itself, but Labour managed to turn the election result into a sweeping victory and a sign of recovery after a difficult crisis in the past two elections."

Although Likud's poll was nearly five percentage points up on the 1985 Histadrut election, it came nowhere near its aims of winning more than 30 per cent of the vote and breaking Labour's monopoly.

Borrelli leader Shimon Peres, the vice-premier, derided by many political analysts as a failure, emerged temporarily strengthened against critics demanding his replacement by Yitzhak Rabin, the more hawkish defence minister.

Labour parliamentarian Avraham Burg said his party might pull out of the government and try to form a narrow alliance with religious parties if Shamir returned from Washington having blocked the prospect of peace talks with the Palestinians.

But diplomats warned against over-rating the significance of the poll. They said they saw no alternative to a continuation of the uneasy Likud-led "national unity" government, although Labour might act more assertively.

The administration was slow in confirming that President George Bush would see Shamir, and the atmosphere also was cool for a meeting and lunch with Secretary of State James Baker.

Those sessions Wednesday could be critical in the month-long drive by Baker to shape Shamir's proposal for Palestinian elections in a way that is acceptable to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The PLO has not accepted or rejected Baker's plan.

PLO approval through Egypt is considered a prerequisite for Israeli-Palestinian talks. And yet, attention remains riveted on Israel, which has bargained openly with Baker to try to force out the PLO from meetings.

Israeli officials, divided over how to proceed, have aired their differences through a free-spirited and competitive media, while U.S. officials have made it plain they do not intend to negotiate terms of the talks indefinitely.

Privately, some have suggested that if the U.S. initiative failed the burden would be on Israel.

The 74-year-old Israeli leader is on an 11-day journey that will take him to Cincinnati, Los Angeles, New York and then Europe before returning home.

Before his departure, Shamir said he did not know if the Bush administration would respond positively to his requests for assurances. But he told Israeli television he would "insist on all the things we see as important

"Open borders cannot be the

Labour puts a brake on Likud in Histadrut

ISRAEL AVIV (R) — The Labour Party retained its grip on the powerful Histadrut workers' federation Tuesday, halting a seemingly inexorable advance by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party towards becoming Israel's dominant political force.

After trailing Likud in last year's general election and losing many urban bastions to the rightists in local elections in February, Labour regained some pride by rebuffing Likud's challenge to its absolute majority in the trade unions.

With all but a few votes counted from Monday's Histadrut elections, Labour had 55 per cent of the vote to Likud's 27 per cent. The leftist opposition Mapam took nine per cent and left-wing or Arab parties shared the remaining nine per cent.

The result weakened Shamir, who had sought a vote of confidence in his tough stance on

Democracy breaks out in German Communist Party

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Democracy is breaking out in East Germany's ruling Communist Party, once among the most rigid of Marxist elites, as a grassroots upheaval for change forces its leaders to risk their political futures.

Under widespread attack from the party rank-and-file, the Central Committee caved in Monday evening and agreed to hold an emergency congress next month.

"Krenz could be gone by Christmas," a Western diplomat said. Egon Krenz, the unpopular former security chief who took over as party leader last month.

"We had hoped Modrow would become party leader," said Pastor Arndt Hanbold of Leipzig's Nikolai church, cradle of the country's democracy movement.

Dresden reformer Hans Modrow was elected prime minister Monday and many see him as a possible challenger to Krenz.

Agreeing to an extraordinary congress, scheduled for Dec. 15

17, was the latest in a flood of concessions the embattled leadership has made to its impatient people over the past week.

The party unleashed East Germany's rubber-stamp parliament Monday, letting critical speech gush out like water from a burst dam.

Free travel, promises of free elections, a reformist prime minister, a lively legislature, a free press — the list of dreams becoming reality in the past week is breathtaking.

But the peaceful protesters whose mammoth marches helped put the party on the run have not let up their pressure for full democracy here.

Up to 300,000 marched Monday evening in Leipzig, 100,000 more in Dresden and another 50,000 in Karl-Marx-Stadt. Tens of thousands more took to the streets in Schwerin, Magdeburg, Neubrandenburg, Cottbus and Halle.

West German Economics

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 3)

Rebels capture strategic position west of Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Anti-Communist rebels have captured an important stronghold in mountains west of the Afghan capital and repulsed a counter-attack by the Soviet-backed government to retake it, sources reported Tuesday.

A guerrilla news agency said the rebels, called Mujahideen, killed 37 soldiers who tried to dislodge them late last week.

Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S.-backed insurgents are holding a key position at Pajak, 30 kilometers west of the besieged capital.

"It illustrates that the Mujahideen are steadily chipping away at Kabul's security perimeter," said one diplomatic source.

Analysts said the Mujahideen conquest links rebel forces west and north of the city, and robs the government of an important observation post for directing artillery and rocket fire.

"There are now no significant regime positions on the west side of Kabul beyond the regime base... on the western edge of Kabul itself," said the diplomatic source.

Midia, a news agency of seven Mujahideen groups based in Pakistan, said 37 soldiers were killed and three army vehicles were destroyed in one government counter-strike.

Diplomatic sources said they also had reports of heavy losses to army troops but could not estimate figures.

Meantime, they said, government forces have succeeded in reopening two key supply routes feeding Kabul and the eastern city of Jalalabad.

However, Mujahideen have continued small unit attacks on the Salang Highway linking the capital with the Soviet border, delaying the movement of hundreds of supply vehicles that were backlogged when rebels sealed the road for two weeks in late October.

The insurgents are fighting to topple the Kabul government and

Tunisian Islamic leader says security stepped up surveillance

TUNIS (R) — An Islamic leader said Tuesday that Tunisia's security forces had stepped up surveillance on him in the week since the government ruled out legalising a party based on religion.

Hamadi Jebali, one of the leading handful of Islamic activists in Tunisia, said up to five security agents at a time had been following him since last Wednesday.

"Everyone who comes to my house has to show his papers to the man at the door and whenever I go out there's a car behind with three men, one with a walkie-talkie," he told Reuters.

"I protest against this violation

of the most basic human right. It's a form of intimidation and it's very irritating, this interference in my private life."

Other sources in the Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement, the Islamic group refused recognition as a political party last June, said the security forces were also closely watching at least four other Islamic leaders in Tunis.

An Interior Ministry official denied that Jebali and the others were under surveillance.

Independent eyewitnesses said a civilian car with three men inside was following Jebali Tuesday morning.

Iran to hold parliamentary by-elections in December

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Parliamentary by-elections will be held in Iran next month in six provinces, Tehran Radio said Tuesday.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said that elections will be held Dec. 15 in the towns of Tehran, Karaj, Kashan, Kerman,

Kordkuy, Torkaman, Kuhdasi and Dure-Chegin to elect representatives for six constituencies to the 270-seat parliament.

The Majlis, or parliament, is currently dominated by radicals who oppose the liberal policies of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who was elected in June.

Berlin Turks worry about future

BERLIN (AP) — The opening of the Berlin Wall showered cash on Turkish merchants down the road from Checkpoint Charlie, but West Berlin's largest minority community still feels enclosed by discrimination.

"The newstands, the vegetable shops, the electronics stores had the business of a lifetime this weekend," said Melhem Elmasesques, an officer at Bamukbank in the predominantly Turkish Kreuzberg District.

It was an unexpected payoff, he said, for people who years ago moved into a rundown neighbourhood.

Behind the wall, however, is a potential flood of competition for the low-paid jobs once reserved for immigrants. There may be even more demand for scarce housing, an issue already turned against foreigners by right-wing extremists.

On the Turkish side, there is frustration about being barred from the civil service and the legal profession, about the difficulty in becoming German citizens and red tape that keeps families separated.

"We have begun with taking down the worst wall, the biggest

establish an Islamic Republic. The ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan seized power in a 1978 military coup, sparking the rebellion. Soviet troops intervened in December 1979 to replace one pro-Moscow government with another, then fought the rebels to a stalemate before a phased withdrawal that was completed last February.

Afghanistan's major cities remain in government hands but under rebel attack. The Mujahideen control nearly all of the rugged countryside.

Moscow has continued to arm Kabul through a massive military airlift.

Rockets slam daily into Kabul, killing hundreds of people since May when this year's fighting season began in earnest.

However, fighting is expected to die down in coming weeks as winter snow blocks mountain passes and restricts guerrilla movement.

Mujahideen have refused to talk peace with Communist officials, who they view as traitors for inviting the Soviet intervention.

Sudan determined to pursue peace

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The military leadership currently in power in Sudan will continue its endeavours to reach a peaceful solution to the six-year-old civil war but will not accept any settlement which would allow for the division of the country "nor will it give up a single inch of Sudan regardless of the collaboration against us,"

Sudanese envoy Colonel Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, member of the Revolutionary and National Salvation Command Council of Sudan told reporters Tuesday.

At a press conference held at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan, Khalifa stressed Sudan's conviction that Israel has a hand in the escalation of conflict between the south and north of Sudan and "was directly involved in the attack on the border town of Kiumuk last month."

"We have evidence... we have eyewitness reports, we have written affidavits by Sudanese citizens as well as security evidence we gathered in Ethiopia," Khalifa said.

He added that if it was a war between Muslims and Christians then "Why are the rebels being trained in Cuba, Nicaragua, East Germany and Ethiopia? Why aren't they being trained in the Vatican or even West Germany?"

He blamed what he described as "evil powers" for the "destructive plans and policies" against Sudan, which, he said, "is rich in its people, and in its agricultural and animal resources as well as yet unearched mineral resources."

He maintained that the Revolution Command of Sudan, which assumed power after toppling the civilian government of Sadeq Al Mahdi in June 1988, "has asked all international relief agencies to extend its aid to our people in the south," as part of a three-part comprehensive plan to bring back peace to the country and rebuild its strength.

Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who led the coup, has extended on a month-by-month basis a de facto ceasefire in effect since April.

SPLA, led by army Colonel John Garang, is demanding

greater autonomy and economic reforms to improve the south which is predominantly populated by Christian and animist Sudanese.

A national conference held in Khartoum last month, in which 106 representatives of the Sudanese people participated, dealt with the grievances of the people from the different parts of the country and presented viable solutions to the war, including political dimensions."

"We only expect media support," he said.

Khalifa said that the Sudanese civil war "is not a war between the north and the south, nor is it between Arabs and Africans, Christians and Muslims... It is a war that has adopted an ideology."

"If it was a war between the north and the south then why did three million Sudanese move from the south to the north rather than move to neighbouring countries?" Khalifa asked.

He added that if it was a war between Muslims and Christians then "Why are the rebels being trained in Cuba, Nicaragua, East Germany and Ethiopia? Why aren't they being trained in the Vatican or even West Germany?"

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Jordanian held in trafficking scheme

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP) — A Jordanian man charged with counterfeiting and money laundering after his arrest in early October on a routine traffic stop faces a new set of federal charges, the U.S. customs-service has said. Mohammad Al Asad, 35, of Houston was charged with six counts of trafficking in counterfeit labels and one count of infringement of a copyright in connection with the seizure of recording equipment in a Houston factory in late October, officials said. After his arrest earlier in October, Al Asad was charged with counterfeiting and money laundering. A police officer who pulled the Jordanian's car over to the side of the road during a routine stop on Oct. 7 found \$31,615 in cash and 864 counterfeit audio cassettes tapes in Al Asad's vehicle on Interstate 10 in Harrison County. The tapes featured country-western, pop and rock music by such artists as Michael Jackson. Al Asad was released on a \$25,000 bond Oct. 13. Police said he returned to Houston, where he was placed under surveillance. On Oct. 24, he was followed to a Houston factory where authorities seized the counterfeit products, customs officials said. Recording industry experts estimate the value of the seized merchandise and equipment at between \$4 million and \$6 million.

U.N. envoy returns to Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson, hoping to revive stalled Gulf peace talks with shuttle diplomacy, left for Iran Tuesday after meeting Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, Iraqi INA News Agency said. Diplomats said Eliasson would discuss U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, the basis of a ceasefire declared in August last year, with Iranian leaders and then return for his fourth visit to Baghdad since his shuttle began last week. The ceasefire and deployment of U.N. observers along the 1,200-kilometer border are the only elements of the resolution in force. More than 100,000 prisoners of war are still held 15 months after the eight-year conflict ended. Iran insists that Iraqi troops should at once leave Iranian territory which it says they occupy, while Baghdad says priority must be given to clearing war debris from the Shatt Al Arab border waterway, its main outlet to the sea.

Bomb hits party office in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — A bomb damaged the office of the ruling Motherland Party headquarters in Istanbul Tuesday. "There was a huge bang and a lot of smoke but nobody was hurt," a secretary at the centre-right party's office said. No group has said it was responsible but similar attacks in the past have been claimed by banned left-wing groups. A second bomb exploded near a police station in Schermin quarter overnight, causing damage but no injuries, police sources said. Over 20 bombs designed to make very loud bangs but causing little damage exploded at banks and businesses last Thursday night after the inauguration of President Turgut Ozal, the former premier and Motherland Party founder.

Turkish journalist shot

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish restaurant owner, quoted as saying that "all journalists should be shot," was arrested in connection with the shooting of a journalist in Istanbul Tuesday. The victim, Kamil Basaran, head of breaking news reports for the popular Gazete newspaper, had written an editorial condemning Halil Morgul for his reported remark. Police arrested Morgul after the shooting near the Gazete's offices. Basaran, the third member of the Gazete's staff to be shot this month, was badly wounded, the newspaper said. Morgul had made his comment to reporters accompanying a city team which wanted to inspect his restaurant under the Galata Bridge over the mouth of Istanbul's Golden Horn sea inlet, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said. Police are still searching for a Kurdish clan leader alleged to have shot dead a Gazete reporter and wounded a photographer on Nov. 7 after the Gazete claimed a popular singer had spiked his drink and forced him to have sex with her.

Iran rounds up drug traffickers

NICOSIA (AP) — Islamic revolutionary extremists rounded up 3,358 suspected drug traffickers or addicts in the previous 48 hours, Iran's state-run news agency reported Tuesday. The suspects, along with large quantities of various drugs, were seized and handed over to the authorities by members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. In a dispatch monitored in Cyprus, the agency said according to a new law "any addict who fails to give up his dirty habit will be jailed or sent to a labour camp." The latest arrests were part of a wave of arrests of drug traffickers and addicts this year. More than 800 alleged traffickers have been executed since last December.

Poland seeks diplomatic ties with GCC

ABU DHABI (R) — Poland seeks to have diplomatic relations with all member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a Polish official was quoted Tuesday as saying. "We are making contacts with the GCC states, to establish ties, the absence of which is abnormal," Krzysztof Plominski, director at Polish Foreign Ministry, told Al-Ittihad newspaper, based in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Poland has diplomatic relations with three of the six GCC states — Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE — but has yet to establish relations with the others — Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

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Chad smashes 2nd rebel base in Sudan

PARIS (R) — Chad said Tuesday its forces had smashed a second pro-Libyan guerrilla base deep inside Sudan's Darfur region, which borders Chad.

Chad has said it killed 600 enemy troops in a 12-hour battle when it destroyed the first camp, also in Darfur, two weeks ago.

The statement said the Chad army killed 235 members of the Legion and captured 62. Chad says the Legion is a multi-national force of impoverished African immigrants press-ganged in Libya.

"With the destruction of this logistic base of the Islamic Legion, FANT has completely put out of action the mercenary band in the service of Libya," the statement added.

Chad and Libya signed a peace accord in Algiers on Aug. 30 to end years of fighting over the disputed Aouzou Strip on their desert border.

But Chad's ambassador in France, Aliam Mi Ahmad, said Monday he believed Tripoli was more interested in releasing Libyan war prisoners in Chad than in resolving the border dispute.

McCarthy never presented his credentials to any Lebanese head of state because the position was effectively vacant after the previous president, Amine Gemayel, finished his term of office earlier this year.

Lebanese Christian leader Michel Aoun, who declared himself Gemayel's successor and launched a military campaign to drive Syrian troops out of Lebanon, demanded that McCarthy present credentials to him.

The United States refused to do this.

The withdrawal of U.S. diplomats came after supporters of Aoun demonstrated outside the east Beirut embassy.

Embassy personnel had previously been unable to visit mainly Muslim west Beirut because of persistent shelling and fears for their security.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 109

Fire Brigade 591228
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 843402
Police Security Department 631021
Hotel Complaints 635800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 397467
Armenian Municipality Complaints 661111
Jordan International Church Tel. 635226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812355
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 633817, 654952.

PROGRAMME ONE
18:45 Documentary: France
18:45 ... L'Appart
18:45 ... News in French
18:45 ... Reports on Elections
18:45 ... Arabic series (two episodes)
18:45 ... News in Arabic
18:45 ... Play "Peta"

PROGRAMME TWO
18:15 Documentary: France
18:45 ... L'Appart
18:45 ... News in French
18:45 ... Reports on Elections
18:45 ... Arabic series (two episodes)
18:45 ... News in Arabic
18:45 ... Play "Peta"

PRAYER TIMES
Fair (Sarajevo) Dhuhr
Dhuhr
'Asr
Magrib
Isha

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 8 / 13
Aqaba 14 / 23
Deserts 6 / 17
Jordan Valley 13 / 20

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 98.541

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Princess Fatima Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm. 54428116
Aidish Maternity, J. Amm. 642441/2
J. Amm. Maternity 642362
Mashita, J. Amm. 636140
Palmer, Shmeissani 661174
Shmeissani Hospital 661251
University Hospital 642845
Al-Mansour Hospital 567227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 661127/37
Al-Abi, Abdali 661164/6
Baitan, Al-Mohareen 777101/5
Al-Sabah, J. Abdali 775111/26
Army, Marjeh 639117/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662402/20
Ammi Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital 03/943223
Zarqa National Hospital 03/951071
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (

Jordan, Egypt probe scopes of media links

Cairo (Petra) — Culture and Information Minister Nagib Al Majali Tuesday discussed in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart, Saad Al Sufi, scopes of bilateral cooperation in the area of information, in addition to cooperation within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

In a statement to Petra, Majali said he discussed with Sharif means of speeding up work on the implementation of agreements drafted at a recent meeting of the ACC information ministers held in Baghdad.

He said that he and Sharif agreed to convene a meeting of directors of radio and television stations in the four-member states of the ACC to prepare a

detailed executive plan of action for the year 1990.

Majali also said that his talks with Sharif touched upon issues of mutual concern, such as engineering cooperation, micro-wave linkage and aerospace cooperation.

Discussions also dealt with cooperation in the area of training radio and television staff, including broadcasters and programme producers and information exchange, according to Majali.

Majali arrived in Cairo Monday to hold talks with Sharif and to take part in an African media conference to be held in the Egyptian capital.

Later Tuesday Majali took part in the final session of the African Media Conference, which he described as "a step on the path of Arab-African dialogue." Majali stressed the need for efforts to pave the way for further Arab-African contacts through communication infrastructure in the African continent.

Majali said the earth and satellite communications between Africa and the Arab World contribute to advancing understanding and achieving rapprochement between Africa and the Arab Nation.

Recent communication breakthroughs, Majali said, have shortened the distance between various parts of the globe and converted the world into an international village providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas and experience.

Nammar explains ACC raison d'etre

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Secretary-General Hisham Nammar said Monday that the establishment of the ACC was prompted by political, security and economic considerations.

In a lecture he delivered at the Business and Professional Women Club, Nammar said the three considerations were inter-related and, as such, cannot be separated from each other.

He said national security and stability "are a prerequisite for achieving national economic development." However, he said, "economic cooperation and coordination cannot be achieved without political will, with fingers on the unification of political stands."

Nammar cited different political relations as reasons for the success of all efforts made in the past to achieve Arab unity.

Nammar pointed out that the ACC was created following "the crystallisation of the political will, which was reflected in the close relations that linked the leaders of the four ACC countries."

Nammar said the ACC's formation was also prompted by economic circumstances, in the four countries; Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

These circumstances, include population density, manpower, gross national product, arable land, technical expertise, mineral resources and petrol in addition to the common historical and economic interests which the ACC member states share, he said.

Nammar said the success of the council in achieving its objectives depends on the political will and the support of the social forces in member countries, as well as their economic weight.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

HEALTH OFFICIAL HONOURED: His Majesty King Hussein has conferred upon the former secretary-general of the Ministry of Health, Anwar Bilbisi, Jordan's Renaissance Medal of the Second Order in appreciation of his efforts in developing the health sector. The medal was presented to Bilbisi by Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas.

SWEDEN HONOURS JORDANIAN: The director-general of the Forests and Soil Conservation Department at the Agriculture Ministry, Ghaleb Abu Urabi, has received the Swedish Polar Star medal of the Commander order, which was conferred upon him by King Carl Gustav of Sweden in appreciation of his efforts in protecting the environment.

DEMOGRAPHIC MEETING: Directors of Demographic research and studies centres in the Arab World Tuesday met in Tunis to discuss issues pertaining to developing human resources, exchange of expertise in the area of housing and forging inter-Arab coordination in the area of formulating demographic policies. Participants will also discuss steps to set up a demographic information network, and the five-year plan of the Demographic Research and Studies Centre. The meeting is organised by the Arab League's General Secretariat in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. (Petra)

ARAB SCOUTING COMMITTEE: The seven-member Arab Scouting Committee Tuesday held its 71st session in Amman to discuss the Arab Scouts Conference's Secretariat report on its activities during the last six months and arrangements for holding the 19th Arab Scouts Conference in Amman in 1990. The committee was also to discuss amendments proposed to the Arab Scouting Committee's statute and will endorse minutes of the 90th session. The committee groups representatives from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Tunisia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Egypt. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammed Al Qaddumi displaying oil and watercolor paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.

* A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* A photographic exhibition on Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre, the Exhibition Hall.

CONCERT

* A concert by the Symphony Orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

SYMPORIUM

* A symposium on "The Political Writing in Jordanian Journalists" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.



NOSTALGIA... His Majesty King Hussein flanked by several members of the royal family attends an official ceremony decades ago. He is (Archives photo)

Shamir in U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

and necessary, and I don't imagine the U.S. leadership would reject our proposals."

Under the proposal, talks between Israel and Palestinians would be followed by Baker meeting in Washington with foreign ministers Moshe Arens of Israel and Esmat Abdul Meguid of Egypt. Afterwards, elections would be held among the 1.7 million Palestinians on the occupied West Bank and in Gaza.

In Cairo, Abdul Meguid summoned his experts on Israel Tuesday to assess the Jewish state's position.

Abdul Meguid, who has been in close contact with Washington and the PLO in the past few weeks, discussed with Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Salah Bassuni the outcome of the diplomats' talks with Israeli officials.

He later met Mohammad Al Azzaizi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Israel department.

Arens, in a letter circulated at the U.N. Monday, asked the U.N. Secretary General to support Israel's election initiative.

Arens said the Israeli cabinet had decided to accept the proposal advanced by Baker, on the assumption Washington would provide assurances to meet Israel's concerns.

"I now hope to obtain your support for what could prove to be an important breakthrough in the quest for peace," Arens told Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Hoss holds consultations

(Continued from page 1)

It said Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi would try to convince Samir Geagea, leader of the right-wing Lebanese Forces militia alliance, to accept participation in Hoss' cabinet.

However, the independent dailies Al Nahar said the Christian militia has decided not to take part in any government pending a solution to the current deadlock.

Lebanese Forces spokesman withheld comment on the reports.

Aoun has rejected the Taif accord because it did not include a clear timetable for the withdrawal of Syria's 40,000 troops

from Lebanon.

In a sign that Aoun is becoming internationally isolated, 32 Arab and Western diplomats Monday paid respects to Muawad.

They included a representative of Iraq, which has sent arms to Aoun's 15,000 troops.

U.S. administration officials said Washington was considering sending its ambassador to Beirut, John McCarthy, back on a brief visit to present his credentials to Muawad.

The United States pulled its staff out of east Beirut in September, saying anti-U.S. demonstration by supporters of Aoun raised fears for their safety.

Democracy in East Germany

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Helmut Haussmann announced the proposed aid package Tuesday. He did not name a figure and said the plan would be useless if East Germany did not carry out a "thorough change" of its troubled centrally planned economy.

The minister said the aid plan being offered by Bonn would include major investments in East Germany and joint ventures, as well as revamping East Germany's outdated communications and transport system.

The mass-circulation Bild newspaper Tuesday quoted Krenz as saying his scheduled talks in December with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl would be on the basis of two sovereign states.

Czech move

Czech Premier Ladislav Adamec said Tuesday that Czechoslovak citizens would no longer need exit permits to travel to Western countries and Yugoslavia.

He did not say when the new regulations would take effect.

In an address to the Czechoslovak federal assembly, Adamec said his government regards "tourism as the citizens' important right to get to know the world, gain experience and establish personal contacts."

Charter on education stresses new vision, programme of action

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Arab regional consultation conference on education started its working sessions here Tuesday and discussed a World Charter on "Education for All" and the framework for action to meet basic learning needs, that are expected to be endorsed at a 1990 world conference to be held in Thailand.

The conference began with routine procedural decisions with the selection of Jordan's minister of education, Adnan Badran, as president of the conference. Other Arab education ministers were chosen as his deputies and the secretary-general of the Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCPWA), Tayseer Abdul Jaber, was chosen as the conference's rapporteur.

The main objectives of the conference are to highlight the importance of basic education, to provide a platform for the exchange of expertise, research conclusions and to reach a consensus on a working framework,

according to the executive secretary of the Higher Joint Committee for the world conference, Wadih Hadad.

The importance of these deliberations is "the fact that 75 million youngsters are illiterate, and out of 200 million adults, 60 million are illiterate and by the year 2030 the petroleum resources of this region will run out," according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) regional director. "This is what makes this a momentous time and adds the element of emergency to the conference," Richard Reid told the participants in his address on the first day of the working sessions.

The number of illiterates in the world today is approaching one billion, and 120 million children will not have access to school. Another dilemma is that women continue to have less access to education than men. Another dimension to the education problem is the ever-widening disparities within and between nations. "We either accept these facts, or try to do something about them," a member of the higher joint committee asserted. "We are now beginning to be increasingly concerned with placing people and the development of human potential back in the centre of the development process."

Article eight focuses on equity and reduction of educational disparities between males and females and for different disadvantaged groups (like those with disabilities and poverty and those lacking basic education in rural areas). "These groups require

liability.

He also paid tribute to the spirit of cooperation the people of Irbid Governorate demonstrated, which contributed to the success of the election process.

One of the deputies-elect, Ahmad Al Kofahi, thanked the governor and the governorate personnel for their efforts during the election and pledged the deputies' cooperation to work towards the advancement of Jordan.

The documents, issued by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Saleh Masa'adeh, were presented to the deputies-elect at a ceremony held by Irbid Governor Jawdat Al Sboul. The governor congratulated the winners and wished them success in Parliament.

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the new emphasis given to kindergartens its responsibilities are increased."

Furthermore, he adds, "although the ministry has been trying to provide increased in-service training to its teachers, the burden of expansion is heavier. The ministry is unaware of the conditions and pressing needs to improve schools and how to relate education to the needs of the children and society."

"It will take a long time before Jordan can see such changes because it is the first cycle that is important and this vital cycle is being neglected," added the expert, an ardent exponent of pre-school education. "It is the starting point for every human being," he says.

"The first six years of a child's life are the period when a child forms basic attitudes and capabilities. Pre-school education should offer the child the opportunity to develop perceptive and discriminating powers, language, classification of things, motor (body movement) skills and awareness of the environment."

"If all these skills are developed, then they become the resource for intelligence for the child as he/she grows up."

According to the expert, "this is where the problem

is appreciated by the society as a whole," he asserts. "It is still thought that kindergartens are an extension of school where writing and arithmetic are compulsory."

Probable solution

The expert is suggesting a formula to rectify the situation. "The authorities should provide for buildings and furniture and set up government-run kindergartens," he says. "They should provide periodical grants to kindergartens to augment fees collected from students to pay for teachers' salaries and other operating expenses in addition to offering training for teachers, supervising education and providing educational materials."

The expert finds an increasing demand by villagers for kindergartens and a pressing need to improve existing institutions. "People in remote villages are demanding educational opportunities along the same lines as those available in Amman," he said.

The expert noted that projects were already taking shape around Karak in the south, but said "I fear that the pressure is getting too heavy to handle elsewhere."

KGs — how much do they weigh in Jordan's educational system

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Little tiny tots peering through the windows of mini-buses emblazoned with names of schools have become a very common sight in Amman's streets, mostly during early morning hours to noon. Ranging from "strictly English-speaking" to "Arabic-only" institutions, kindergartens have mushroomed into tens of dozens, most of them set up in the last two to three years.

It is a fortune-making venture for many of their operators, while for others kindergartens symbolise a dedicated social service. For the mothers, however, they represent a much-needed facility, particularly for working mothers and those with large families.

But, how does the concept of kindergartens figure in Jordan's educational system? What segment(s) of society can actually afford to have their children go through the primary/preparatory stage of entering school?

It was only in 1968 that the education decision-makers in Jordan decided that kindergartens were important enough to be given a slot in the Kingdom's education system; and now "they are being paid more attention with a view to identifying and rectifying flaws as well as ensuring that kindergartens are accessible to as many children as possible," says a senior official of the Ministry of Education.

According to Khaled Al Sheikh, director-general of the education department at the ministry, there are only two government-run kindergartens in Jordan; the rest are controlled by the private sector.

'High costs'

Undoubtedly, the private sector schools are too expensive for low-income families, with monthly fees ranging from JD

15 to JD 55, in addition to uniforms and special gear. "A low-income family will not even have JD 50 to spare, let alone spending it on kindergartens," Sheikh observed. "It is only obvious then that why little boys and girls are seen running around in the streets while they should be benefiting from pre-primary education."

According to Zahra Nabulsi, director of Sahera Kindergarten, only 18 per cent of Jordanian children who should be attending pre-school are actually enrolled in kindergartens. She attributes the low figure to high costs of kindergartens.

Many observers see a pronounced shortcoming on the part of the Ministry of Education. "The existing system only enables people with a reasonable above-average income to send their children to pre-school education," noted one of them. "The Ministry of Education should realise the vital need for public kindergartens in satisfying the need of a very large percentage of the population and ensuring that equality in education is extended to all strata of the society."

Even in the private sector, one can easily detect an inequitable distribution of kindergartens. Nabulsi points out that 65 per cent of the total of 542 kindergartens in Jordan are concentrated in major cities such as Amman, Irbid and Zarqa. "Two kindergartens are the maximum one will find in the village, if any at all," she noted.

But this argument is countered by another observation that even if one was to go to the villages and open kindergartens there is no guarantee that villagers could afford or would send their children there.

'Parental attitudes'

Nabulsi agrees that parental attitudes in villages leave a lot to be desired. "Most parents think that only working

mothers should send their children to kindergartens," she added. On the other hand, others say that many kindergartens do not use textbooks to educate the children. That brings up the question: should kindergartens be taught to read and write or be equipped with "basic social skills?"

Some housewives do not think there is any benefit in sending their children to kindergartens. "In many cases, there is no proper academic education," says one of them. "I am capable of giving my children lessons in social behaviour at home. Why should I send my children to kindergartens and pay for training in behaviour in classes?"

Nabulsi counters: "what the parents must realise is that pre-school education is just as important and complementary to education given at home by parents."

"It is very important that the child feels free, develops skills and gets an opportunity to exercise and play with other children of his or her own age,"

Jordan Times

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The neglected but vital element

THE PEOPLE of Israel have revealed their true colour in a poll conducted by an Israeli public opinion institute and published in the Haaretz daily this week confirming that no less than 52 per cent of Israelis entertain the thought of "transferring" the Palestinian people under occupation to neighbouring Arab countries. In this vein, it has not escaped the Arab mind that the tens of thousands of Soviet Jews expected to arrive in Israel could be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israelis — government and people — are thinking about the unthinkable and are prepared to go as far as evicting the Palestinians from the occupied territories in order to make room for the immigrants from the Soviet Union. What adds insult to injury is that such Israeli thoughts are veiled with a threat that unless the Arab parties could be stampeded into accepting the Israeli version of a solution to the Palestinian problem, the transfer of all Palestinian people from the occupied territories would become imminent.

Accordingly, it becomes the primary responsibility of Moscow to put a hold on all plans to allow mass Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel or any other country for that matter unless and until Israel demonstrates by deed a willingness to resolve the Middle East conflicts on the bases of international resolutions and norms.

It is also the primary responsibility of the Palestinian party and the rest of the Arab World to weigh their operational options vis-à-vis their conflicts with Israel and make the necessary logical conclusions and decisions. The existing incoherent policies and continued vacillation by the Arab side on what to do next will obviously play into the hands of the Israelis, particularly the extremists among them who have grown in strength in recent months. And, at a time when the glorious Palestinian intifada has awakened the international conscience to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people under occupation and rekindled the faith, confidence of self-reliance among the struggling Palestinians to take their future into their own hands, Israeli public opinion appears to have hardened and turned more extreme.

Of course, part of the problem is that even the Palestinian side is not speaking with one tongue. The same goes for the Arab countries with or without summit conferences. Meanwhile, Israeli public opinion is grossly neglected and the Arab side keeps on conducting its policies over the conflict with Israel without the due attention being given to the need to cultivate Israeli public opinion in favour of just peace and mutual accommodation.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i as well as the rest of the Jordanian dailies on Tuesday gave prominence to His Majesty King Hussein's birthday anniversary paying tribute in their editorials and opinion columns to his endeavours over the past four decades to build up his country and serve his nation. The paper said that the Jordanian family should congratulate itself on this occasion and wish the leader continued happiness and continued efforts to maintain prosperity for his country and for his Arab Nation. The paper recalled the immense efforts exerted by the monarch over the past years and his exemplary leadership that turned out Jordan into a modern state and an oasis of stability and security in a turbulent Middle East. The past years witnessed numerous challenges which the King had been able to overcome and to lead his people towards successes, the paper noted. It said the King crowned his services by paving the ground for his countrymen to return to parliamentary life so that they can take part in the construction of their country.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses the water issue in Jordan and calls on Jordanian citizens to be careful and economise in their use of water resources. Salih Abdal Samad says that water problems are troubling various countries in the Middle East in view of projections that the end of the present century will witness a water shortage and probably conflicts over the water resources. The writer says that the government is to be commended for its continued efforts to make available sufficient water supplies for all regions in the Kingdom but all citizens are called on to contribute to the process by economising and properly using the limited resources so that the country will not be faced by a chronic crisis. The socio-economic development in Jordan and the population growth are both exerting continued pressure on the government and the water resources of this country, a situation which calls for more care and more planning on the part of government and people, says the writer. The coming winter season, Abdal Samad notes, should not tempt the citizens to waste water supplies in the belief that rain is coming and the artesian wells will be replenished once again.

Al Dostour daily said that Jordanians are filled with delight and pride over the King's birthday Tuesday and are more and more optimistic about their future. The paper said that the King's birthday coincided with the crowning of his success in introducing parliamentary life in the country, a process which it said would no doubt enhance the meaning and the practice of democracy in Jordan. The paper said on this occasion the Jordanian citizens recall the achievements of King Hussein over the past years and his great endeavours to serve his people with all his strength. The paper wished the King continued happiness and long life full of accomplishments and marked by success.

The religious imperative for Middle East peace

By Canon Michael P. Hamilton

IF I had been born in Arabia and felt God's presence, I would have become a Muslim. If I had been born in Tel Aviv or a European ghetto I would know God as a Jew. I happened to have been born in Ireland, in the troubled city of Belfast where two communities have long claimed rights to the same land. I grew up there and, when God called me, it was natural for me to be Christian. I believe I worship the same God as my Muslim and Jewish brothers and sisters, and with them I also hope and work for God's peace in the world. Two other personal references may help you to understand my thinking: my grandfather was Jewish and I served in the British army in Palestine in 1947 and 1948. Before I left Haifa I was invited to serve in the forthcoming war by Arab friends to repel the invaders, and by Israeli friends to defend their new state.

Diversity and prejudice

God chose to create the human family with great diversity. Differing in racial and cultural characteristics, we still share a common human nature. We all are a mixture of good and bad, selfishness and virtue and, in spite of our imperfections, we all are cherished by God who wishes us well and desires our common peace. I suggest this belief has the important political corollary that peace is really possible, and that our differences can enrich rather than divide us. In contradiction to much secular political theory, we believers claim that the fulfillment of the individual is not, in principle, at odds with the welfare of the state, nor that the security of one nation is necessarily in conflict with the enlightened, national self-interest of

Theological perspectives

The doctrine of creation raises the role of theology itself. By this term I mean a coherent and inclusive understanding of one's religion, how it came to be and how it applies to the world in which one lives. The Christians, tom

others. The price of peace is not oppression, but rather the task of gaining and implementing a shared view of freedom and justice; because with God's guidance peace is possible. There are always grounds for hope and a reason to work for its realisation.

I remember when I returned to work in Belfast in 1986 I attended a large, Protestant church gathering where there was a discussion on community relations. This was a euphemism for how they were treated, for they harboured prejudices and idols they did not wish to acknowledge publicly. At last an older politician rose: "We all want peace and justice — but not at any price!" His prejudice was revealed — the preservation of Protestant political ascendancy which was more important to him than either peace or justice. To my dismay this uncompromising bigot was applauded.

There are parallels between the behaviour of that stubborn politician and the hard-line posture of Israel's Prime Minister Shamir. The misuse of majority rule by Protestants vis-à-vis Catholics is similar to the deprivation of the civil rights of Palestinians by Israelis. We are all members of the one human family and, for peace to prevail, we must all be able to participate freely in the political arena and all have adequate access to the natural resources of the world which God created for us.

Deuteronomy, Chapter 30: "If you obey the commandments of the Lord... the Lord will bless you in the land which you are entering to take possession of. But if your heart turns away... you shall not live long in the land."

2 Esdras, Chapter 14: "The land was given to you... but your fathers committed iniquity... and because the Most High is a righteous judge in due time he took from you what he had given."

I find no way to justify on religions, nor on long-term pragmatic grounds, the way Israel has treated Palestinians. Let me quote an Israeli source, Abba Eban:

"The Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza cannot vote or be elected to anything, have no judicial control over the government that rules their lives, have no appeal against the judgments of military courts, are not free to leave their land with assurances of the right to return, are not immune, as are their Jewish neighbours from such penalties as expulsion or the blowing up of homes or administrative detention, and do not possess the same economic and social conditions of their immediate Jewish neighbours."

Censorship, the closing of schools, deprivation of civil rights, appropriation of land, restriction of water supplies, imprisonment without trial, torture, deportation and now the brutality of the army in dealing with the intifada are cruelties which are corrupting Israel as well as persecuting Palestinians. The Israeli Jews desperately need a theological revival that produces repentance, reform and justice for their neighbours. It is out of concern for Israel that we should so persuade them.

Moral responsibilities

It is about time I began to criticise the limits of the theology and behaviour of Christians. And I suspect we deserve the greatest condemnation. The Crusades, the Inquisition, the pogroms, Western imperialism and the terrible climax of the Holocaust — all these horrors emanated from the West, and many of them were justified theologically by Christians.

And we American Christians have not sought the truth, all the truth, about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Such knowledge could free us from the bias of propaganda. American policy in

the Middle East, often uncritical and hailed by evangelicals, has been destructive at times and negligent at others. Americans, because of the large grants we make to support Israel, bear moral responsibility for how that money is spent. Do we really want our money to support new settlements and the army of occupation?

The main-line Protestant denominations have been relatively enlightened politically in calling for the security of Israel, the condemnation of abuses of human rights, and the establishment of an independent state for the Palestinians. But we have done little yet to transform our pronouncements into a political force. The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops published a comprehensive draft report on the Middle East in October of this year. I hope it will contribute to a better public understanding. Methodists are now considering proposals for reducing assistance to Israel. Eisenhower, joining with all voting members of the United Nations, condemned Israel's continuing occupation of the Sinai during the Suez crisis, and then threatened sanctions; Israel withdrew. The time is ripe for us to reflect on that experience and to discuss symbolic and other measures to influence Israeli policies we cannot now morally support.

Reconciliation

The implications of one doctrine flow into another, and the dynamic of reconciliation is a central one for Christians and calls to mind a number of applications. Christians believe that God has reconciled us humans to himself in spite of our sins. Everyone, of whatever religious faith or none, knows from experience that the cost of restoring broken rela-

tions always involves suffering and sacrifice.

In Northern Ireland Catholics and Protestants both have a measure of justice in their causes and both fear a future they cannot control. They have suffered greatly down the years and have hurt each other badly. Too few of them raise their eyes above their own wounds to recognise the injuries they have inflicted upon the other. Is this not like the insensitivity of many Israelis and Palestinians? Jerusalem and Belfast are cities under judgement. If you wish to test the spiritual and political maturity of a people, ask how they treat their neighbours and adversaries.

Maxims for peacemakers

Let me close with some things we ought to know:

— To criticise Israel is not to be anti-Semitic. To criticise an Israeli government is not to be anti-Israel.

— Terrorism is counter-productive and always wrong. Compared to non-violent protest, it poisons the atmosphere for mutual understanding and degrades the cause it represents.

— As we work for peace Americans must hang on faithfully to the hands of both Israelis and Palestinians, cherish and respect them both for whatever happens.

— Finally, God is sovereign and his will is eventually accomplished. God surprises us by bringing good out of evil, joy out of sadness, freedom out of bondage. Jews know this from the Exodus, Christians from the Resurrection and Muslims from the Hijira. The Holocaust was followed by the state of Israel. What will come after the intifada? — Middle East International, London.

Warsaw Pact could serve as stabiliser

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuter

LONDON — East Germany's opening of its borders with the West could hasten the end of the old-style Warsaw Pact, but the Communist alliance may have found a new role as guarantor of security in an age of change.

From East and West, the seven-nation East European grouping is under pressure to scrap its former image as a tool of Soviet military policy, take on a more political colouring and reflect the rapid reforms under way in the region.

But neither East nor West is in any hurry to see the disappearance of the pact, which groups the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania.

Poland called for changes at a pact foreign ministers' meeting in Warsaw last month. This week, a senior Polish foreign ministry official, Jerzy Nowak, said it should drop attempts at "monolithic unity" and take account of members' differing views.

Many Western experts agree. "The pact is going to have to look at a new sort of relationship between the Soviet Union and its members," says John Roper of Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs.

But even as the shift towards

Western-style democracy in Poland, Hungary and now East Germany weakens the ideological glue of Communism that once held the pact together, Westerners are beginning to say the alliance may have its uses after all.

Once, they branded it as a Soviet-dominated military machine poised either to strike against Western Europe or to turn inwards and crush dissent in one of its member states. Now the tone is different.

"At the moment the Warsaw Pact is a stabilising influence in Eastern Europe. The fact that there is such an organisation makes it more difficult for anyone to take action which would spill over onto us (the West)," says Colonel Andrew Duncan of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Western experts and diplomats commented that both Poland and Hungary had said they intended to stay in the pact for the time being, and that the wrath of the East Germans seemed so far to be directed against their own leaders, not the Soviets.

By contrast with previous upheavals in Eastern Europe, the Kremlin under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has been seen

at a time when its counterparts are in varying degrees of retreat not only in Eastern Europe, but



For many South African blacks, Communism retains an allure

By David Crary
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — While many Communist leaders in other countries are grappling with public discontent, the outlawed South African Communist Party is enjoying a surge of popularity and support.

Following President F.W. de Klerk's decision to ease restrictions on anti-government protest, the Communists' symbols and rhetoric have emerged from the political underground into the media spotlight.

At a mass rally last month for freed leaders of the African National Congress guerrilla movement, the Communist Party's red flag and the ANC's gold, green and black banner were given equal prominence as huge backdrops to the speakers' podium.

A roar came from the mostly black crowd of more than 70,000 when a message was read from the party's general secretary, Joe Slovo, an exiled white lawyer depicted by the government as a mastermind of terrorist attacks. The rally's keynote speech, delivered by senior ANC leader Walter Sisulu, ended with an ominous message.

"Long live the ANC. Long live our alliance with the South African Communist Party," said Sisulu, 77. "Long live the working class movement."

The party's new stature comes at a time when its counterparts are in varying degrees of retreat not only in Eastern Europe, but

also in Africa. The trend among leftist governments on the continent is to move away from dogmatic Marxism-Leninism and seek expanded economic ties with the West.

But in South Africa, Communism holds a particular appeal for sections of the disenchanted black majority who view capitalism as a partner of apartheid.

The Communist Party "retains a romantic mystique... to the young lions who are searching for a revolutionary alternative to the status quo. It has a vision and an ideological coherence," said a recent analysis in the weekly Mail, an anti-apartheid newspaper.

Some commentators have suggested that this mystique could be lessened if the government lifted the ban on the party and let its leaders compete openly in the ideological marketplace. As yet, there has been no sign this might happen.

The party has not issued a detailed platform saying what its policies would be if it took power alone or in a coalition. It still apparently sticks to orthodox Marxism-Leninism, as opposed to the more moderate versions of Communism and Socialism that have appeared elsewhere. But many believe most of the party's supporters in South Africa support it simply as an anti-capitalist, anti-apartheid symbol, rather than support it out of detailed familiarity with its ideology.

Some anti-apartheid church leaders have expressed dismay that Communist banners were displayed at recent protest mar-

ches which they led. Yet many activist clergymen uneasy with Communism's atheism are sympathetic to the ANC, which uses as its anthem a moving hymn titled "God bless Africa."

The alliance between the ANC and the Communists dates back to the early 1920s, when both campaigned on behalf of black workers. The Communist Party was banned in 1950, and the ANC in 1960, and there has been extensive overlapping within the exiled leadership of the two organisations.

In 1986, the U.S. State Department estimated that about half of the ANC's executive committee members were Communists.

Govan Mbeki, one of the released ANC leaders honoured at the mass rally, said in his speech that the ANC-Communist alliance has been a prime target of the South African government and its supporters in the imperialist countries."

He wrote afterward that participants asked themselves: "What impact have the failures of Socialism, not only in Africa but throughout the Socialist world, had on the Socialists and Marxists in the ANC?"

"The answer seemed to be — none at all," Mbeki wrote. "Their rejection of capitalism is not based on a rational costs-benefits analysis. It is predominantly an emotional response, deeply embedded in their rejection of apartheid."

He concluded that South Africa's Socialists "are insisting on their right to make their own mistakes."

JPD is 150

France's romantic image shattered by two million wife-beaters

By Andrea Peirce
Reuters

women and their children can live for several months, say they cannot handle the number of women in need.

The government hopes to combat these gaps through a national campaign of TV advertisements, posters and films that will aggressively dramatize the problem and tell people where they can go for legal help.

A national hotline is also being set up — but only for the three weeks of the campaign, unless extra funding is found.

At a shelter in a working-class Paris suburb, a group of women who escaped from the daily horrors of domestic violence — one after 17 years of physical abuse — said the campaign would at least break the silence.

But the law itself also needs to be revised, they said.

Today, French law fails to address specifically the problem of violence in the home. The



B.B. once the symbol of French women, but does she really represent them?

wife-beater faces prosecution only in the bloodiest of cases, and it is almost always up to the victim to bring him before the courts.

The government, faced with complaints that battered women generally find themselves out on the street when legal proceedings start, is drafting legislation to give the victims first rights to stay in the family home.

Though the cycle of domestic violence has persisted unlabeled for decades, feminists say it may be broken by the financial inde-

pendence of the younger generation.

Betty Fournier, director of the

Maison de la Femme, a women's

shelter in the outskirts of Paris

that receives more than 4,000

battered women a year, said:

"Before doing anything else,

before finding lodgings or work for them, we work on their self image."

"They're shattered, lost. They

first have to remember what it's

like to be a free individual, with a

mind as well as a body of their

own," she said.

Dr. Mar'i began her talk with personal reminiscences on the

By Rosalind Mandine
(USIA Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON — A more personal side to achieving peace between Palestinians and Jews in the Middle East was presented November 9 at a briefing given by two distinguished Israeli women — one an Orthodox Jew and the other an Arab who is Muslim.

Leah Shakdiel and Dr. Mar'i shared their experiences and thoughts on peace and coexistence during a press briefing sponsored by the New Israel Fund and Joyce R. Starr Associates, a foreign policy research firm.

Shakdiel is a member of the religious council in Yeroham, a town in the Negev, and is the first woman in Israeli history to hold such a position. She teaches Judaism and Hebrew in Yeroham and is a leading advocate of improved education, economic development and civil rights of neighboring Bedouin citizens.

Dr. Mar'i is the only Arab woman professor at Haifa University, where she specializes in early childhood development. She is the co-chair of "Partnership," an organization based in Haifa that promotes Arab-Jewish coexistence in Israel and a member of the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee no Arab women.

She had mailed a letter to then Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, "telling him of the agony of her family." The letter never got to the prime minister, however, because her postman, fearing the trouble it might cause, never sent it through. This incident troubled Mar'i because it illustrated the fear of expressing oneself, she underscored.

The fear of expressing one's beliefs is at the core of the problems between Jews and Palestinians, Mar'i stressed.

Palestinians must feel they can express their feelings without having to be overly sensitive to the feelings of others.

Jews, she said, "Keeping my knowledge to myself, and not sharing it — it is disgraceful to me and to others."

In order for Jews and Palestinians to trust and respect each other, they must share their opinions even if it is painful, she underscored.

"Our problem is not social, it is political," she said. "The problem is in accepting the fact that

Two women, one land

overly sensitive to the feelings of others, she said. "Keeping my knowledge to myself, and not sharing it — it is disgraceful to me and to others."

In order for Jews and Palestinians to trust and respect each other, they must share their opinions even if it is painful, she underscored.

"Our problem is not social, it is political," she said. "The problem is in accepting the fact that

on "learning to share the land."

Shakdiel said that many Israelis picture a society "which is Jewish, a male society, an Ashkenazi society. We have a hard time expanding our consciousness to a society which is men and women, Ashkenazi and Sephardi and Jewish and Arab."

"The Jewish state is in the Middle East and will be forever surrounded by Arab countries. Peace is an imperative if we want to survive in that part of the world," she stressed.

Shakdiel also spoke of the need for understanding and acceptance between Palestinians and Jews. It is "self-destructive to deny the existence of the Palestinian people," she said. Respecting and accepting Palestinians "as full human beings, as having national aspirations and opinions that you might not like" is necessary to fay a way "to promote the welfare of both parties."

Finally, what we are talking about is a two-state solution," she said.

Asked how to bring about the changes in attitudes and perceptions, Shakdiel said there is much work to be done in education. De-stereotyping and creating a broader concept of society in Israel is important, she noted. She pointed out that there is an openmindedness in the study of Judaism and said "we need to apply the same openmindedness to the peace issue."

Africa becoming heroin conduit

By Chege Mbithi
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Iran's revolution and the war in neighbouring Afghanistan have turned Africa into a major smuggling route for Southwest Asian heroin.

"They (Africans) have made the traffic veritably intercontinental, causing a serious problem," says Interpol, the International Police Organisation based in Lyons, France.

The money is good. The wholesale price of a kilogramme of pure heroin is about \$150,000, says a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent based in Lyons, France.

Diluted and peddled on the streets of New York, London or Paris, a kilogramme of the narcotics can fetch up to \$1 million.

Western Europe is the destination of most of the heroin routed through Africa from Pakistan and Afghanistan, although some is shipped across the Atlantic Ocean to North America.

Most of the heroin smuggled into the United States is believed to originate in the opium poppy fields of Southeast Asia, particularly Laos, and takes a different route to market.

Interpol says it has no estimate of the amount of heroin moving through Africa, but has statistics suggesting it has risen sharply in recent years.

The agency says authorities in Pakistan, India, Africa and Europe arrested 236 Africans caught with 528 kilogrammes of heroin last year.

Interpol figures for 1984 show the arrests of nearly 11 Africans carrying 48 kilogrammes of heroin in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Traditionally, Southwest Asian nationals smuggled heroin to Europe overland through Iran, Turkey and the Balkan countries. Some was diverted to India and Pakistan and later smuggled to Europe by air or sea.

However, the overland route was disrupted by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and a strict anti-narcotics campaign begun by Iran's Islamic leaders.

With their traditional route blocked, traffickers turned to Africa.

Sri Lankans were first. But by 1984, Africans were not only investing in what a Tanzanian newspaper recently called a "quick and big money business" but also hiring their own couriers.

African governments were caught lacking the know-how to fight the traffickers.

"It was a new crime for them, and they didn't know what to do," said a Western diplomat based in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Peter Masemani, head of Kenya's anti-narcotics squad, agrees. "At first we didn't know what we were looking for," he said.

In an effort to stop the heroin from reaching their streets, Western governments, especially the United States and Britain, are helping the African nations.

In September, Washington sent Thomas Pickering, its ambassador to the United Nations, to prod Nigerians to renew an agreement under which the United States assists the West African nation's anti-drug effort. The agreement was signed in Washington soon after that.

A month later, Britain and Nigeria signed a similar pact.

Interpol figures show the majority of the traffickers are Nigerians, Ghanians, Tanzanians, Malians and Gambians. "But no African nation is unaffected by the trafficking of southwest Asia heroin," said Joseph Fortier, head of Interpol's drugs sub-division.

The heroin enters Africa by air and sea mainly through eastern countries, with Kenya, Egypt and Ethiopia favoured because of frequent connecting flights to West

Africa.

In West Africa, the drug is repackaged and carried by individual couriers or hidden in freight shipments to Western Europe or North America.

The beneficiaries included Kenya, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast and Cameroun. In addition, Sudan, Niger, Kenya and Togo each received drug testing kits worth between \$200 and \$300 each last year.

The United States is planning a \$75,000 West African contraband customs school for French-speaking Benin, Guinea, Niger, Senegal and Togo. A similar one for English-speaking Nigeria and Ghana would cost \$40,000, Unger says.

Washington also is concerned about the stability of African nations, already weakened by floundering economies, unemployment and external debt.

"We also feel African governments can't fight the drugs menace alone. We need assistance."

Legislation in most African countries doesn't offer much of a deterrent, said the DEA agent in Cairo. Punishment for drug trafficking can be as little as a month's imprisonment or a \$500 fine.

There is hope the trafficking can be slowed down.

In a continent where shady deals go together with high political office, African bigwigs are shunning the illegal drugs business, Western diplomats say.

"They know it can cause them problems," said a Western diplomat in Nairobi. "In fact, they are approaching us for help. We find that encouraging."

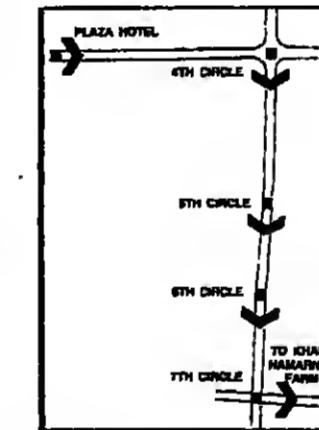
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Tunisian president wants debt relief schemes on wider scale

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali said Monday that middle-income countries who are striving to improve their economies should be included in debt relief programmes.

In an address to the U.N. General Assembly, the president welcomed debt restructuring plans for developing nations but said there was no reason countries that had instituted substantial reforms should be excluded from such benefits.

Consideration should be paid in this respect to the huge efforts they are exerting to improve their economies, ensure success for their development plans and honour their commitments while relying upon their sole potentiality," he said.

"We call again for the convening of an international conference to examine the question of indebtedness," he added.

Major powers urge free world trade rules

HAKONE, Japan (AP) — Trade ministers of four major economic powers ended two days of talks here Tuesday, calling for improved enforcement of free trade rules under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

While differences of opinion among the United States, Canada, Japan and the European Community (EC) remained unresolved after the informal talks, there was a clear consensus on the need to improve trade discipline under GATT, the ministers told reporters.

"About \$1 trillion in global trade is not covered or is inadequately covered by trade rules," said U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills.

"We need good, clear, enforceable rules... and clear procedural rules so, we have a clear system for resolving disputes," Hills said.

"We need vast improvement in the dispute settlement system, which is inadequate, to put it kindly," Canadian Trade Minister John Crosbie agreed.

Officials participating in the talks said successful conclusion of the current Uruguay Round of GATT trade talks would depend on giving the Geneva-based trade watchdog group greater power to

issue of food subsidies.

In his General Assembly address as well as a talk to African nations afterwards, Ibn Ali called on North African countries to go beyond "patching-up" operations and adopt a radical reform of the world economy in conjunction with developing nations.

"We have constantly called for the improvement of the monetary situation throughout the world, which represents a major obstacle impeding the achievement of our legitimate aspirations for development and progress," he said.

Reducing subsidies

On the domestic front, the Tunisian government aims to cut the cost of food subsidies within three or four years to 1.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP)

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Moscow plans to help Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — The Soviet Union plans to help Iraq with a 15-year economic and technical programme costing billions of dollars, a senior Soviet official has said. Abel Aganbegyan, head of the economic council of the Soviet State Council, told a news conference that experts from the two countries had held a series of meetings on the programme. It envisages expanding the capacity of the national grid to supply electricity to all parts of Iraq, developing the oil industry and improving irrigation systems. Aganbegyan could not give a precise figure on the cost, but economic experts said the projects would be worth billions of dollars. He said the Soviet Union sought a sharp rise in non-military trade with Iraq, which was worth \$2.2 billion in 1988.

Israel expects fall in arms industry

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin expects Israel's military exports to fall due to a world-wide reduction in tensions and urged weapons industries to develop civilian products. "With defence budgets being cut all over the world, Israel will no longer be able to maintain annual exports of \$1.7 billion worth of military products," Rabin said in an address at the Weizman Institute of Science. Rabin said defence sales constitute one-third of all industrial exports. He urged the Weizman Institute and other research facilities to "play a key role in developing sophisticated civilian products that would allow Israel's industries to remain in business. Last year, defence exports reached \$1.47 billion, including \$400 million in sales to the United States.

Investcorp makes share placement

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain-based Arabian Investment Banking Corporation (Investcorp) has said it would privately place \$135 million of shares in three European luxury goods firms with its Gulf clients. The bank said in a statement the placement package, covering shares in Italian fashion house Gucci Gucci, Parisian jeweller Chaumet et Cie and watchmaker Breguet S.A., would not involve a change of control in any of these firms. "The investments are being offered to Investcorp's in-house funds and a certain number of individual and institutional financial investors, who are current clients," it said.

Newspaper reports 'largest' gold find

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Danish and Canadian geologists have discovered a gold find on Greenland, reportedly one of the largest ever found, a Danish newspaper has reported. Jyllands-Posten said the gold find is located on Greenland's east coast, concentrated on four square kilometres, which would make it easy to extract. Greenland is a semi-independent part of Denmark. The paper compared the size of the gold find to the mines in South Africa, one of the world's biggest gold producer. The extraction of the gold could start in five years, said the daily, adding that scientists calculated they would be able to dig out 12 tons of the precious metal yearly.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buy	Sell
Monday November 13, 1989 Central Bank official rates		
Deutschmark	341.9	345.3
Swiss franc	388.1	392.0
French franc	100.9	101.9
Japanese yen (for 100)	444.4	448.8
Dutch guilder	303.2	306.2
Swedish crown	98.7	99.7
Italian lira (for 100)	46.9	47.4
Belgian franc (for 10)	165.0	166.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.5830/40	1.1695/705	Deutschmark
One U.S. dollar	1.8550/57	2.0933/40	Canadian dollar
	1.6378/88	1.6378/88	Deutschmarks
	38.91/94	42.95/00	Dutch guilders
	6.2950/3000	6.2950/3000	Swiss francs
	1357/1358	143.70/80	Belgian francs
	143.70/80	6.4650/700	French francs
	6.9450/500	6.9450/500	Italian lire
	7.2000/50	7.2000/50	Japanese yen
One ounce of gold	391.00/391.40	391.00/391.40	Swedish crowns
			Norwegian crowns
			Danish crowns
			U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — A rise in the price of gold and a \$1.74 billion bid for IEL created buying interest and the All Ordinaries index rose 0.5 to 1,633.6.

TOKYO — The Nikkei rose 18.52 to a record close of 35,768.64 in active trade but with no special factors influencing the market.

HONG KONG — Light local buying focusing on second and third liners nudged Hong Kong's Hang Seng index up 13.25 points to close at 27,79.58 in lacklustre trade.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed marginally easier in thin trading. The Straits Times industrial index shed 3.19 points to end at 1,333.25.

BOMBAY — Closed for holiday.

FRANKFURT — German shares slumped as market euphoria linked to East Germany's decision to open its borders faded. The DAX index slumped 1.8 per cent to 1,503.85.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed lower. The all-share index fell 11.7 to 1,092.8 points.

PARIS — French share prices were weaker by midsession, as interest faded in stocks expected to benefit from events in West Germany. The CAC-40 index was 3.06 points lower at 1,816.45 by 1220 GMT.

LONDON — Shares were firm in quiet business with Wall Street firm on hopes of an easing of credit by the Federal Reserve. By 1546 GMT the FTSE 100 was 3.0 points up at 2,226.2.

NEW YORK — The stock market showed little change with economic news providing more evidence of a slowing in the U.S. economy. The Dow was up three at 2630.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



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your personality!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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JUTSO

KAUMPE

VEGASA

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

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HARRIS
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Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CHAMP BUILT KILLER POETRY
Answer: What they called those two porcupines—
A PRICKLY "PAIR"

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



Lebanese lira gains on wide speculation

KUWAIT (AP) — A speculative grab for the Lebanese lira was precipitated in the Gulf region with the election of President Rene Muawad after a 14-month gap without a head of state in the war-ravaged country, leading foreign exchange dealers have said.

The sources said that the value of the Lebanese lira was on the rise, pushing its price from a record low of about 550 dinars (\$1,870) per million liras by about 40 per cent to about 750 dinars (\$2,550).

In dollar terms the rise in value in Kuwait has been from 535 liras per dollar to less than 400. In Beirut the rate is about 415 liras per dollar, changed from around 530 before hope for a political settlement.

Milk and wheat marketing are now state monopolies.

The extra cotton production would go to the Tunisian textile industry and increase the value added on textile imports.

Textiles are a major Tunisian export but the sector relies mainly on imported yarn and cloth.

Al Muzaini money changing establishment told the Associated Press.

According to the dealers, they monitored several speculators, not all Lebanese, who had bought millions of liras and stood to make a healthy profit if the price continued increasing. At least one man had 100 million Lebanese liras (\$255,000).

The demand for the Lebanese lira subsided during Muawad's consultations for formation of a government, but when he made his selection of Salim Hoss as prime minister, interest heightened.

Dealer Jassem Al Sarraf said:

"I think the present value of the lira is much lower than its normal foreign exchange rate. A million liras should change for more than 1,000 dinars (\$3,300) or about 900 liras to the dollar," he said.

He said Lebanon's economy benefits from adequate gold reserves, potentially flourishing tourism industry and a large number of expatriates," Al Sarraf said.

tion started in late October when Lebanese Muslim and Christian deputies at the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif agreed to a peace blueprint that they later ratified in Lebanon before electing Muawad.

The wave of speculation followed the drastic decline in the value of the Lebanese currency as a result of the bloody spate of fighting in the 14-year-old Lebanese civil war that preceded the peace breakthrough. When the war started the Lebanese lira, was valued at less than three liras per dollar.

Dealer Jassem Al Sarraf said:

"In order to protect cooperation between international and Arab banks, participants seek that banking business be separated from all factors that may affect it such as politics," he said.

The meeting also decided to urge Arab governments to try to alter an international 1988 Basle accord which classified all Arab states except Saudi Arabia as a high credit risk.

"In order to protect cooperation between international and Arab banks, participants seek that banking business be separated from all factors that may affect it such as politics," he said.

Despite the strong concerns of the business community, the government previously had maintained the economy was still in good shape and called its sag "seasonal."

Business circles welcomed the decision Tuesday as a major shift in the government's economic policy but said it was not strong enough to bail out the sinking economy.

Government officials worry that a big cut in bank interest rates or rapid economic changes will provoke inflation.

Since President Roh Tae-Woo took office in February 1988, the government has tried to keep a low-profile in its economic policy, while introducing broad political and social reforms.

Prime Minister Kang Young Ho directed top security officials Tuesday to end violent and illegal labour strikes.

Kang and other officials agree South Korea's economy cannot rebound without checking the labour unrest that has battered many South Korean companies over the past two years, intermittently disrupting operations in major industries such as shipbuilding, auto manufacturing and transportation.

Recently, government officials have voiced concerns about the unrest, with some contending violent labour disputes are instigated by leftists trying to overthrow the government.

Government measures proposed Tuesday include plans to devalue the Korean won, a campaign to combat protracted labour unrest and excessive consumption and a special committee aimed at enhancing productivity.

The won appreciated 15.8 per cent last year against the dollar under strong U.S. pressure, and Korean business organisations have called for the government's intervention to halt the appreciation.

Egypt, Jordan and UAE are overbanked

"We are calling for mergers inside those countries," of small private banks, he told reporters in Bahrain at the end of a three-day UAB conference.

The UAB group 275 Arab banks.

UAB economist Makram Sader said there was an average of 0.36 banks per 10,000 people in the Arab World, compared with 0.5-1.0 in developing nations.

S. Korea acts to stimulate industries

SEOUL (AP) — The government Tuesday announced emergency measures designed to stimulate South Korea's sluggish economy, ranging from cuts in interest rates to special loans for export industries.

The ministers also said a special \$1.48 billion loan fund would be created to promote investment in production facilities. The loan carries an annual interest rate of eight per cent.

One half of the fund will be provided to small companies, with the other half earmarked for export industries and high-technology development, they said.

Economic Planning Minister Cho Soon said last week that

South Korea needs extensive measures to boost its economy, which he said "may plunge into an irrecoverable stage unless proper actions are taken urgently."

The ministers also said a special \$1.48 billion loan fund would be created to promote investment in production facilities. The loan carries an annual interest rate of eight per cent.

Sports

Austria gives 5,000 tickets to E. Germany

LONDON (AP) — Austrian soccer authorities have responded to the opening of East Germany's border with the West by giving its East Bloc neighbor 5,000 tickets for a World Cup game in Vienna, officials said Monday.

A spokesman for the world body soccer, FIFA, said the Austrians had "acted very quickly" to hand over the tickets to the East German soccer federation for distribution for Wednesday night's crucial group 3 qualifying match between the two nations.

"We did not anticipate this situation," FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said. "In the past, no tickets were available" for East Germans to attend games in the West.

Fans of away teams normally are given a percentage of tickets for all international games under FIFA's jurisdiction.

Tognoni said the problem now was to stop thousands more East Germans converging on Vienna for the group 3 game which will decide which, if either, of the two nations advances to the World Cup finals in Italy next June.

"We have sent a telex to the East German soccer federation asking it to make a public appeal in the press that those without tickets do not enter the stadium," Tognoni said in a telephone interview. "We just don't know how many East Germans will want to go."

By Adrian Warner
Reuter

BONN — The crumbling of the Berlin Wall has given a major boost to hopes that East and West Berlin might stage the Olympic games together in 2004, leading sports officials said on Monday.

West Germany already planned to put the city on top of its list of summer games candidates if the East-West German Olympic bid for distribution for Wednesday night's crucial group 3 qualifying match between the two nations.

"We did not anticipate this situation," FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said. "In the past, no tickets were available" for East Germans to attend games in the West.

Germany's veteran International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Willi Daume told Reuters.

"I've always thought of it as being a very realistic idea. But let's not get too hasty, there is a long way to go yet. They are 15 years away," added Daume, chief organizer of the 1972 Munich Olympics, the last held on German soil.

"I can imagine the idea will receive good support in the IOC which has always aimed to foster humanitarian action and world peace. For instance, they have always supported the idea of a joint East-West German Olympic team."

East and West Germany entered combined teams at the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympics before competing separately for the first time in 1968.

East Germany's newly-found openness, manifested by last week's decision to allow its citizens to travel freely out of the country, has also moved to the field of sport.

Last week it admitted for the first time that some of its athletes

had tested positive for banned performance-enhancing drugs.

In the past East Germany, one of the world's big medal-winning nations at summer and winter games, vehemently denied that its sports stars took drugs.

The Communist state is keen in cash in more on the success of its athletes on the increasingly lucrative international circuit and also realizes that the Olympic could help its economy.

East German Athletics Association chief Heinz Kadow said the country would send athletes to all of next year's European grand prix meetings and hoped to earn around \$1 million from their appearance money and victory bonuses.

The national soccer team would also stop off in Kuwait during a training trip at the end of January and earn what soccer officials called "five-figure" sums in an exhibition match.

East Germany's National Olympic Committee spokesman Volker Kluge said joint Berlin games were "not implausible" and called for intensive talks about the advantages and disadvantages for both countries.

The East German city of Leipzig was also a possible Olympic candidate, he said.

West Berlin has already set up bodies to promote the city's Olympic bid which has the full backing of the city council and Mayor Walter Momper.

Daume said it would receive the full support of all other West German cities competing for the West German candidature.

"All the competing cities agreed way before last week's developments that they would stand down and back Berlin totally if there was a real chance," Daume said.

"But no-one of course could have predicted how fast things have gone in the last week. We have no plans to hold immediate talks with the East Germans but obviously there will be discussions in the future."

In the past, Olympic games have often been used by countries from the East and West to boast their political as well as sporting

stage some of the events at last year's Seoul Olympics but the proposal was rejected.

power.

South Korea offered Communists North Korea the chance to

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SWAPO wins Namibian pre-independence polls

WINDHOEK (R) — The nationalist party SWAPO won the Namibian independence elections, according to unofficial results Tuesday, but doubts remained that it had gained a two-thirds majority to pass through its own constitution.

The leftist South West Africa People's Organisation, which fought a 23-year-long bush war against South African rule of the huge desert territory, moved into a commanding position after votes were counted from its northern stronghold of Ovambo. Results showed that in Ovambo, where half the population of Namibia lives, SWAPO had crushed its main rival, the centrist Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA).

The vote is for a constituent assembly which will guide Namibia to independence next year, ending 74 years of South African rule.

SWAPO had hoped for a two-thirds majority in the elections to enable it to write its own constitution.

That goal is theoretically still within reach because absentees and delayed ballots have still to be counted.

But the unofficial results showed it was increasingly unlikely and SWAPO looked set to emerge from the poll with about 40 seats in the 72-seat assembly.

SWAPO's performance in Ovambo, where it won 197,000 votes against the DTA's 9,000, reversed a lacklustre showing in

most other areas of the territory on the west coast of southern Africa.

Failure to reach the two-thirds figure means that SWAPO would have to negotiate with other parties, notably the DTA, on the constitution for independence.

But there was no sign of disappoiment among SWAPO supporters as the results came in.

Minutes after the Ovambo result was announced, cars packed with SWAPO backers paraded through Windhoek, their horns blaring. Occupants leaned out of windows giving clenched fist salutes.

At SWAPO headquarters, officials embraced each other while outside several hundred people chanted "viva SWAPO."

SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma, who spent nearly 30 years in exile before returning to his homeland this year, went to government headquarters in Windhoek to hold talks with Louis Pienaar, South Africa's top official in Namibia.

Nujoma is expected to head the government of Africa's newest nation following independence next year.

Amnesty calls on OAS to protect human rights

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International appealed Tuesday to the Organisation of American States (OAS) to stop illegal executions, disappearances and other human rights abuses in several Latin American countries.

The worldwide human rights organisation said there has been a "dramatic deterioration" in human rights in parts of the region during the last 18 months. Widespread violence in Colombia, Peru, Guatemala and El Salvador was of particular concern, it said.

It appealed to the OAS, whose foreign ministers are meeting in Washington, to help eradicate "abhorrent" violations by government forces and paramilitary groups linked with them.

In its catalog of allegations, Amnesty International reported that since 1988:

— More than 2,500 civilians in Colombia have been deliberately and unlawfully killed for political reasons by the army and paramilitary forces working for them, and more than 300 people have disappeared.

— Heavy fighting between the

Arababundo Mari National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels and government troops continued through Monday, killing over 300 people across the country, according to military sources.

"At the moment we're strong and they are not going to make us retreat from San Salvador," the leader of a group of rebels holding a sector of the working class suburb of Mejicanos told reporters.

It said several countries in the Americas continued to use the death penalty, which it campaigns against as cruel and unusual punishment.

It noted that so far this year 14 prisoners had been executed in the United States.

Sectarian battles confuse Indian election predictions

NEW DELHI (R) — Surging Hindu-Muslim strife has thrown predictions about the outcome of next week's Indian elections into complete confusion, analysts and diplomats said Tuesday.

"The communal issue has become the foremost issue in the elections," said leading Indian pollster Prannoy Roy.

"The whole thing is churning. Tremendous changes are going on that we don't normally see at this stage," he said. Voting starts on Nov. 22.

"All our predictions are out of the window, I think," an ambassador said. "The only advice I can give is not to believe anything anyone tells you and wait for the results."

Most election analysts have been predicting that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party, which has ruled for all but two of India's 42 years of independence, will lose its huge parliamentary majority.

But they expected Congress would still be the biggest single party in parliament and would form the next government in a country which proclaims itself the world's biggest democracy.

Religious tension came to a head on Nov. 9 when fundamentalist Hindus laid the foundation stone of a new temple next to an old mosque in the electorally vital northemn state of Uttar Pradesh.

The fundamentalist aim is to demolish the 16th-century mosque in the town of Ayodhya, in the belief it was built on the site of a temple marking the birthplace of the Hindu deity Rama.

The influential imam of Delhi, Syed Abdullah Bukhari, has told minority Muslims to vote against the Congress Party, saying it allowed the ceremonies to go ahead in a bid to win votes among the 650 million Hindu majority.

The Muslim vote is going to the opposition, but the question is how many Hindu votes are Con-

stituted over Ayodhya.

Salvadorean rebels vow to fight on

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadorean leftist rebels were entrenched in several densely populated neighbourhoods in the capital late Monday and said they were ready to make a stand against the army.

Heavy fighting between the Arbabundo Mari National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels and government troops continued through Monday, killing over 300 people across the country, according to military sources.

"At the moment we're strong and they are not going to make us retreat from San Salvador," the leader of a group of rebels holding a sector of the working class suburb of Mejicanos told reporters.

Diplomats predicted more fighting and bloodshed following the second full day of the rebel offensive that brought some of the heaviest fighting in El Salvador in 10 years of civil war.

In Havana, the FMLN Cuban representative said Monday that the guerrillas launched the offensive to force the right-wing government to negotiate as the only solution to end the war.

"What we want from this offensive is for the government to understand once and for all that we are not weak but strong and that the only way to find a solution to the Salvadorean conflict is through negotiation," Francisco Castro told a news conference.

Salvadorean military leaders rejected the rebel claims of strength and said the military had the situation under control.

The violence may also have damaged the opposition campaign.

Behind the fundamentalists in

Ayodhya was the Hindu chauvinist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which has worked out a deal with other opposition parties to put up single candidates against Congress in most constituencies.

The BJP's gleeful attitude over what Hindu fundamentalists called a magnificent victory in Ayodhya has upset Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the main opposition leader who is busily courting the votes of India's 100 million Muslims.

Yeshwant Sinha, spokesman for Singh's Janata Dal Party, said his leader rejected a BJP invitation for a joint campaign.

"We cannot have a joint cam-

paign because we do not agree on policies, especially on Muslims," Sinha said.

The antagonism could hurt the five-party opposition alliance with the Janata Dal at its core, which has a single candidate deal with the BJP in more than 400 contests for the 545-member parliament.

But they expected Congress would still be the biggest single party in parliament and would form the next government in a country which proclaims itself the world's biggest democracy.

Religious tension came to a

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Namibians wait in line to cast their vote during the pre-independence elections.

Bonn, Warsaw declare all European frontiers inviolable

WARSAW (R) — West Germany and Poland Tuesday declared all European borders inviolable and backed the territorial integrity of all states in the continent.

A joint declaration signed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki said secure frontiers were a fundamental precondition for peace in Europe.

The declaration is of fundamental importance for peace, security and stability in Europe and for the positive development of the East-West relationship as a whole," the declaration said.

Kohl bowed his head in silent tribute Tuesday at the former death camp at Auschwitz where the Nazis killed four million people.

Kohl laid a wreath at the Auschwitz Death Wall where 30,000 victims were shot. It was the last day of an official visit to Poland.

Kohl tried to reassure Poles

Monday that a reunification of East and West Germany would not threaten their country.

Kohl said in a speech Monday that any rapprochement between the two Germanys emerging from the upheaval in East Germany would not divert Bonn from helping Poland's economic reforms and recovery.

relations mapped out in this joint declaration is of fundamental importance for peace, security and stability in Europe and for the positive development of the East-West relationship as a whole," the declaration said.

Poles includes large former German territories awarded to it by the victorious World War II allies. Kohl has repeatedly said West Germany has no claims to the areas but insists that the present frontiers can only receive final legal endorsement in a European peace treaty.

The 15-page declaration, intended to launch a new era of postwar Polish-West German relations, set out a broad programme of cooperation at state and local levels.

It said the two countries were determined to achieve a lasting peace and establish their future relations as "an example of good neighbourliness."

"The Federal Republic of Germany and the Polish People's Republic are deeply convinced that the development of their

relations mapped out in this joint declaration is of fundamental importance for peace, security and stability in Europe and for the positive development of the East-West relationship as a whole," the declaration said.

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